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Sliding into spring

Tessa Zarobiak skis down Banana on the front side of Sir Sam's on a sunny Wednesday in March. The hill is gearing up for their Spring Splash celebration to be held this Saturday, Mar. 25.
/VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Act now to ensure healthy lakes, says coalition chair

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A Haliburton property owners collective realized early on that a proactive approach is best to prevent lake health

issues.

Paul MacInnes, the chairperson of the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations, spoke to Highlands East council during its regular meeting March 14.

The coalition is comprised of 50 lake

associations on more than 100 lakes and represents as many as 17,000 properties with the goal to protect and enhance Haliburton Highlands' bodies of water.

MacInnes said he met with two of the top lake health experts, Dr. Norman Yan and Dr. Andrew Paterson, in 2009. He

wanted to know how to determine there's a problem regarding a lake's health. And MacInnes said he wanted some idea as to what the coalition's main priority should be.

"They both told me exactly the same
see NATURAL page 2

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Dysart council wary of proposed Head Lake zipline

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A playground's liability issues have raised the hackles of the Municipality of Dysart et al township council.

A new playground for Head Lake Park has been designed and most major pieces have been ordered. Head Lake Park's playground has been non-existent since June 2022. Its structures were removed because of safety concerns.

But some of the plans for the replacement playground raised new concerns about safety and liability on Mar. 14 during a township council meeting. No decision about the playground was made.

Mayor Murray Fearrey expressed concern about the inclusion of a zipline in the playground plans.

He said he feared there would be liability issues that would stem from such an apparatus.

Andrea Mueller, Dysart's programs and events manager, addressed council with Nicole Baumgartner and Brandon Nimigon who are part of a group raising money for the playground.

Mueller said the zipline equipment has already been ordered.

Nimigon said the overarching goal is to install a playground "that's functional for everyone, that is accessible to everyone in the community. That's really been the main goal when setting this up."

Baumgartner said there's a desire to create a "destination playground" that isn't just a draw for residents. Rather it's hoped to be something that'll put Haliburton Village on the map.

"We think it's important both economically, socio-economically, for the development of children," she said. "The benefits are wide-spread."

A GoFundMe page has been created to raise money for the project. And people can make donations at the town hall. There's also a social media presence toward the cause that will be frequently updated.

"Just keeping everybody in the loop," Nimigon said. "It is a community involvement. This is not just the members. It's anyone and everyone getting together to create this functional, outstanding park in downtown Haliburton."

They're looking to install the park equipment at some point in the spring. Exactly when that happens is contingent upon the weather, of course.

Dysart's township council kicked in \$300,000.

"Which is a huge, huge chunk of change for us to start this process," Nimigon said.

That's in addition to \$150,000 from an Ontario Trillium Accessibility Grant and \$50,000 from the Rotary Club of Haliburton. They've also received \$5,000 from their first



The Head Lake Park playground fundraising committee presented playground plans to Dysart council on Tuesday, March 14. /Photo submitted

donor, he said.

"We're off to a pretty good start," he said.

They have \$500,000 of their \$600,000 goal.

At its longest side, the park will be about 120 feet with a width of about 69 feet.

The park's total footprint will be about 9,000 feet.

The ground will be covered with 12 inches of engineered wood fibre, which is essentially a rubber mulch.

Fearrey said council was taken by surprise by the inclusion of a zipline in the playground. He said Mueller hadn't previously alluded to that apparatus, and it isn't visible on drawings Fearrey has seen.

Mueller said plans for the playground had initially called for the construction of a timber tower. But that was cost-prohibitive with a price tag of about \$262,000 for just that item.

Alterations to plans had to be made.

Mueller said the zipline is in drawn plans, but it's difficult to see.

"I want to know the details on the zipline," Fearrey said. "There's a liability maybe here. We don't want a liability. We want to make sure it's safe for kids."

He said it's concerning that nobody on council has heard about the zipline being part of the playground.

"When you hear a word like zipline, it gets your attention," he said.

"We can't get to a pretty good start," he said.

Mueller provided a video that illustrated the zipline and its use in the hope council's fear could be assuaged.

The zipline doesn't have any harnesses. Rather, children could stand or sit on a T-shaped mechanism that zips along the line.

She said there's one at the Stanhope playground in nearby Algonquin Highlands.

"It's one of the most popular features at that park," she said. "People drive quite a distance. Anybody with kids seems to go there to go on the zipline."

Fearrey expressed reservations that the zipline lacks a seat in which a child could be safely strapped.

Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie said council is in favour of anything to benefit the local youth. He said, other than gossip on the street, this was the first time he'd heard officially about the zipline.

"I knew about all the other stuff," he said. "I would feel a lot more comfortable if I knew a little bit more about the structure of this zipline."

Fearrey said council needs to be informed about such things because they have a responsibility to provide justification to the public.

"I hope the message is that we need to be kept in the loop on these things," he said.

Natural shorelines critical for minimizing lake pollutants

from page 1

thing," he said. "You've got to test your lakes. But, if you wait until you know you've got a problem, it's too late."

"You've got to act now to prevent problems. If you wait until you've got a problem, there's very little you can do about it."

The two biggest issues to focus on are septic health and the protection of natural shorelines. He said septic systems are the greatest polluter of lakes and natural shorelines can prevent pollution.

The coalition has undertaken an exhaustive public education campaign to apprise lakeside property owners the importance of ensuring optimal septic system performance.

"We need septic reinspection," MacInnes said. "As you know, we have it in all four municipalities."

However, Haliburton County's reinspection program lacks Level 4 inspection requirements.

Rainfall in Haliburton County contains four to 10 times more phosphorous than the lake water, he said. That's the leading pollutant to local lakes. Intercepting as much of the runoff is critical. Natural shorelines help minimize runoff making it into lakes.

Natural shorelines filter out 50 per cent of pollutants as opposed to 15 per cent of pollutants filtered by degraded shorelines. And at least 75 per cent of the shoreline must be natural for optimal filtration.

"So natural shorelines, for a whole lot of reasons, are very important," MacInnes said.

He said, on average, less than half of Haliburton County's shoreline is natural. Less than 10 per cent of local lakes met the 75 per cent natural shoreline criteria for lake health.

"So we have work to do," he said.

Much has been done in the way of educating waterfront property owners. But that falls short, he said.

"We can't get to everybody with education," MacInnes said. "A lot of them are brand new (owners). A lot of them hire a contracting company to come up and strip their shoreline before they've even seen the cottage in real life."

Healthy lakes are critical to the economy, lifestyle, and health. And, he said, the lakes are suffering.

"They've already gone down hill and they will continue and it will get worse," he said.

It took five years to get a septic reinspection program off the ground. And it took six years to gain ground on shoreline preservation. Discussion on such a bylaw may be nearly done.

"And climate change will not allow us that kind of luxury anymore," he said.

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HE tables budget with 2.02% increase to taxpayers

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Highlands East managed to shave a smidgen off the tax increase for 2023.

Town council voted during its regular meeting on Mar. 14 to accept the latest draft of the 2023 municipal capital and operating budget.

Taxpayers will get a bill that has a municipal tax rate of 2.02 per cent more than last year's levy rate. The overall increase from last year's spending plan is \$182,332 this year.

Residents will have to pay \$16.83 more than last year for every \$100,000 assessed value on their property.

Last year, the levy for a property assessed at \$100,000 was \$897.42. This year, the rate for the same property is \$914.25.

The user fees for water and wastewater have gone up four per cent for each service.

Brittany McCaw, the township's deputy CAO/treasurer, said the initial tax rate, the one proposed in the first draft of the budget in January, was 2.05 per cent above last year.

"Some minor changes and adjustments have been made throughout the months of February to the budget document such as including the additional monies for the Cardiff Pool Change House project," McCaw said.

"This did not have any impact on the bottom line of the tax rate."

The former Gas Tax Funding now called The Canada Community-Building Fund allocation for 2023 is \$110,633.

Council is using unused funds that had

been put into reserves for projects that weren't done. Money brought forward in 2023 towards capital projects include \$25,000 for architect fees for the Municipal Office design build, \$25,000 from digitizing files to the Records Management SDR project, \$10,000 for Integrity Commissioner, and \$25,000 from the Working Fund Reserve to complete the Corporate Strategic Plan.

Funding for the fire department's capital projects include coin towards the Fire Master Plan, five sets of new bunker gear, and various fire hall upgrades at all halls throughout the municipality.

Policing costs will drop by 3.27 per cent from last year for a price tag of about \$1.5 million in 2023.

The township's contribution to the conservation authority jumped by 2.97 per cent for \$64,255 this year.

Roads revenue increased to \$95,000 this year, more than the \$64,500 in 2022 because of the increase in fees and charges and municipal services to other municipalities.

Money brought forward from reserve for Public Works use this year include \$50,000 for the Glamorgan equipment shelter that is to be reallocated towards the grader, \$362,500 for the grader, \$160,000 for a new tractor, \$40,000 for Inlet Bay Road work, \$40,000 for Gem Road work, \$50,000 for Upper Paudash Road work, \$250,000 for Earles Road culvert, \$90,000 for garage roof repairs, and \$20,000 for guiderails.

HE hears the wait will continue for property assessment updates

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Property assessments don't determine the amount of taxes to be paid by the owner to the municipality of Highlands East.

Sarah Groves, an account manager at the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, explained the corporation's role during town council's regular meeting Mar. 14.

"Municipal relationships are a priority at MPAC," said Groves. "And, because of that, we continue to focus on elevating the municipal and property owner experience."

The assessments and the property tax system generate about \$30-billion in tax revenue annually.

The process is made up of four key players: The provincial Ministry of Finance, MPAC, individual municipalities, and the property owners.

She said it's crucial to maintain Ontario's property database.

"Property data is continuously updated so that municipal records are accurate when our municipal stakeholders are making important tax decisions," Groves said.

The most recent assessment updates were completed in January 2016. The coronavirus pandemic postponed the 2020 assessment update.

"Regular re-evaluation of properties ensures that assessments stay up to date and similar properties of similar value in the same municipality pay similar property

taxes," she said.

The sooner MPAC delivers assessments, the faster municipalities realize new revenue.

"Assessments distribute taxes," Groves said. "They do not determine the taxes paid."

When a provincewide assessment update occurs, the most important factor is not how the assessed value of a property has changed. Rather, how the assessed value has changed relative to the average change in the class in that community.

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall's property is assessed at \$240,000. The replacement value of his home is \$400,000 with the resale value being \$600,000.

"I'm concerned about the fact that, when it does go to \$600,000, and yes there's going to be redistribution, and it doesn't necessarily mean that my property taxes are going to double or triple, but it will require an adjustment of some way, shape, or form," Ryall said.

He hopes the adjustment won't happen all in one year.

Groves said the corporation is waiting for the province's decision on when the next assessment update will take place. And Queen's Park can then decide whether or not to continue with the four-year phase-in, she said.

"If they do stay at the four-year phase-in, ... you're going to see incremental increase over four years," she said.

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Three years in: COVID's impact on health care

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Almost exactly three years ago, Ontario declared a state of emergency, closing schools, businesses, and advising against non-essential travel; even to the grocery store.

Ontarians were limited to only having close interaction with those in their household.

Case counts climbed, increasing death tolls were displayed across the screens of televisions, and we feared the word "outbreak".

Although the initial quake may be over, the COVID-19 pandemic has left remaining aftershocks that will be felt for years, even decades, to come.

Our health care system was one of the hardest-hit sectors.

At our hospitals, emergency departments flooded with COVID cases, health care workers became overloaded and burnt out, and beds and other essentials were in short supply.

In our long term care homes, residents were isolated, and outbreaks were rampant.

Seventy-four per cent of Ontarians experienced increased mental health challenges. There was a 70 per cent increase

in opioid-related deaths. Sixty per cent of cancer-related surgeries were cancelled following the huge influx of COVID cases.

Health care facilities and workers were pushed in the middle of the battle zone.

Haliburton County was not immune. Carolyn Plummer, CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), said every service they provide was affected from the very start in March of 2020.

"From our emergency departments to our long-term care homes, as well as our community programs and services, everyone had to adapt very quickly to not only new circumstances, but also to public health and government guidance that changed rapidly - sometimes on a daily and even hourly basis," Plummer told the *Echo*.

She said all facilities were locked down almost immediately, and those hit especially hard were residents living in long-term care homes and their families who weren't able to visit them.

Despite the grim situation, HHHS was able to overcome many hurdles. They worked hard to provide the best health care under unprecedented circumstances.

"As the virus and our understanding of it progressed and evolved, our teams kept adapting. Different precautions were put in place, such as active screening at our facilities, the physical separation of our facilities to protect our most vulnerable,

and the use of personal protective equipment in all settings," Plummer said.

She said the introduction of vaccines to protect against the virus changed the battle. They meant that more interaction could happen within HHHS facilities; connections that softened the increase of mental health challenges due to isolation.

"The ability of the vaccines to provide strong protection from the most devastating consequences meant that we could look for ways to re-instate important connections between our staff teams, patients, residents and their families, clients, and our volunteers," Plummer said.

Like most health services in the province, HHHS continues to be challenged by staff and funding shortages.

"The challenge of recruiting and retaining staff, as the country experiences significant health human resource shortages, continues to be the most lasting impact of the pandemic on our team and our operations," Plummer said. "I hope that we will be able to encourage decision-makers to find long-term, sustainable solutions to the staffing and funding challenges we face, so these services can grow and be strengthened in years to come."

Lessened restrictions mean that even more face-to-face interactions with patients can happen. Separation from loved ones was one of the hardest things to endure over the past three years, and

“

While these were extremely challenging times, I continue to be incredibly proud and grateful for how our teams responded."

— Carolyn Plummer, CEO of HHHS

Plummer is thankful for restored connections.

Our health care workers were dealt one of the hardest hands during the pandemic, and HHHS' CEO is proud of all health care teams in Haliburton County.

"While these were extremely challenging times, I continue to be incredibly proud and grateful for how our teams responded. No matter what, they put the health and safety of our patients, residents, and clients first, while protecting their colleagues, their families, and themselves. I will never forget their efforts and I hope I am not alone," she said.

Top doctor tells local health officials to be ready for infectious disease

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The region's top doctor believes health boards need to remain vigilant, even as the coronavirus pandemic seems to be winding down.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and CEO of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, essentially delivered a message from her provincial counterpart Mar. 16 during the board's public meeting.

Bocking distilled the province's chief medical officer of health's 2022 annual report.

The report, entitled Bring Ready, is focused on the role of local public health boards in infectious diseases and pandemic preparedness. It's a very simple

title, she said, and she hopes it serves to convey an important message.

"Really highlighting the need for continued and sustainable investments in public health," she said. "Being prepared."

COVID-19 thrust the concept of pandemics and outbreaks into the spotlight. Responding to infectious diseases, preventing their spread, is at the heart of public health boards' role.

"They are with us, really, indefinitely," Bocking said. "Viruses and other pathogens have a unique ability to continue to evade kind of the best scientists and continue to evolve."

"Not only do we see new pathogens arising, things such as climate change will actually potentially accelerate some new pathogens arising or being able to spread in ways they weren't previously able to

spread."

Public health bodies have been seeing the re-emergence of pathogens that had previously been well controlled. Measles and polio have re-emerged since the pandemic's start, she said. They've returned in areas where those ailments were previously eliminated.

There's been a national and a provincial increase in syphilis.

There are some ongoing cases of mpox, which was previously dubbed monkeypox.

"As I mentioned with measles, we are certainly aware of the potential for certain vaccine preventable diseases to re-emerge as we know that routine childhood immunizations were impacted throughout the pandemic," Bocking said.

There's a boom-and-bust cycle regarding public health funding. There'll be a

public health crisis such as COVID-19 that garners much attention. As the threat fades, governments reprioritize health care funding.

"Typically what we see is funding cuts to public health," Bocking said. "Then, without fail, we'll have another large outbreak or another public health crisis."

"And local public health agencies, provincial public health agencies are not as prepared as they should be."

Local agencies have a role in maintaining preparedness and to build on partnerships that were built during the pandemic, she said.

"There's a number of pieces of infrastructure that we are continuing with that were established during the pandemic such as monthly meetings with family health teams and primary care providers," she said.

Driving in funds for the Foundation

Members of the Ontario Federation of 4WD Recreationists donated \$97,430 to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services

Foundation in Haliburton as part of its annual fundraising campaign on Sunday, March 19 at the Haliburton Hospital. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo





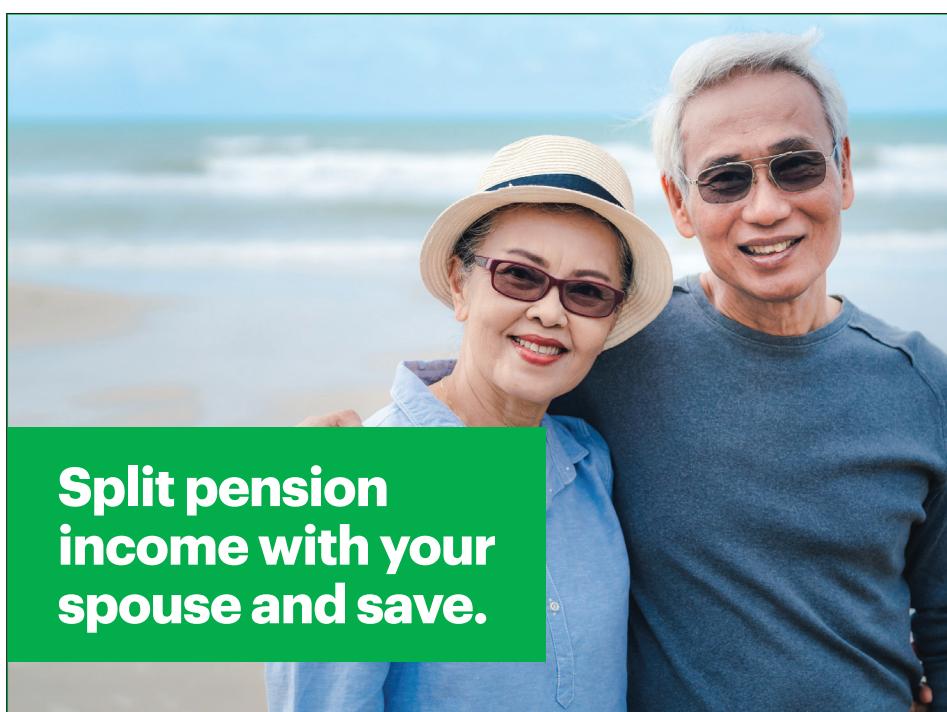
U-Links to host annual Celebration of Research

U-Links will be hosting their annual Celebration of Research at Haliburton School of Art and Design on March 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. This will be the first in-person U-Links presentation in 3 years. "Each spring a Celebration of Research is held by U-Links, the students prepare posters of their work and the community is invited to hear about some of the highlights and to talk to the students about their research," said U-Links administrative and logistics coordinator, Daniela Pagliaro. The day also includes keynote speakers and presentations that are specific to the region. Those interested can register for the event at www.ulinks.ca /file photo



Head Lake Park receives \$50,000 from Rotary

The Rotary Club of Haliburton presented the Municipality of Dysart et al with a \$50,000 donation to the Head Lake Park playground fundraising committee on Thursday, March 16. Dysart Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie receives the cheque on behalf of the municipality from Haliburton Rotary president Ursula Devolin. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



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Heroes wear pyjamas

THE "NIGHTMARES" that I remember are often very vivid because they are real-life scenarios; missing a deadline for work, making a big mistake, embarrassing myself in public, etc.

While I'm asleep and dreaming, it usually feels like the nightmare is actually happening in real life, until I wake up, and all is well again.

Last Thursday, one of those really bad, panic-inducing, embarrassing myself-in-public nightmares actually did happen.

And to make the most out of the experience, I thought I'd share the story here. Anything for the readers.

So to start, I can, in fact, confirm that we live in the best little town, and heroes actually wear pyjamas.

I was housesitting in Haliburton for a family that had gone away on a trip for March Break.

I was also looking after their dog who can't be alone outside because she will chase the hundreds of deer in the area (a topic for another time. Please don't feed the deer in town).

The dog's regular schedule is to wake up at 6:30 a.m. to go outside and then eat her breakfast.

So at exactly 6:30 a.m., she wakes me up to go out.

In my half-conscious state, I get up and put my boots on.

I hesitate to grab my coat. I'll just be out for a few minutes.

At the last second, I end up throwing on my coat over my pyjamas; the best decision of the morning.

It's cold out. I'm eager to go back inside.

When the dog's finally ready, I push down on the handle to open the door.

It won't budge.

The door isn't one that you can accidentally lock; it has to be locked from the outside only.

Confused, I try and push down on the handle again, and still, nothing.



vivian
collings

Editorial

at 6:30 a.m.

Believe me, I seriously contemplated camping out.

Long-story short, the only thing damaged was my pride.

To the not one, not two, not three, but four amazingly kind neighbours in pyjamas that lent me a phone to panic call my mom, offered me coffee, and also pointed me to the right place to find a spare key for the other door, I owe you big. It was great, but let's not do it again sometime.

We really do live in the best little town, though, full of the most accepting people.

I'll never forget to be grateful for that. And I'll also never forget my keys and phone inside at 6:30 a.m. ever again.



A weather system closes in on Pine Lake in West Guilford. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

Something fishy

MARK WONDERED why he cared so much. Standing beside the aquarium in his den, he watched the fish struggling. He had been doing the same thing every evening for almost a week. The only light was the aquarium's, spilling down into the watery depths as his tropical fish moved around plants, a miniature castle and each other. Different shapes and sizes circled, looped or suspended in the tranquil pretend-sea. Colours blended in or stood out against the background of an imaginary river bed.

It had been another tough week at the office. Dealing with difficult personalities, deadlines and office politics sometimes left him

feeling worn down and weary. Watching the fish in their silent underwater setting was calming. Beautiful to look at with its greens and blues, smooth stones and feathery plants, it displayed a peaceful world that made it easier for Mark to let go of his daily life for a brief while.

But one fish was sick or injured. Mark could tell by the way it swam. Lopsided, it would give sudden bursts of movement, obviously pushing itself to get at the food Mark sprinkled into the water. However Mark speculated it was probably not very successful in feeding, as it appeared to be getting thinner, its eyes protruding more as it watched the others nearby. It looked as though it was trying to stay clear of them.

This had happened before, and Mark knew how it would almost certainly end. The fish would die, indeed it was dying as he watched. But it seemed to be a slow death, and he wondered if the fish was feeling pain. Over the years he had kept various fish and some lived longer than others. There was one that he had now had for two years, its beautiful fluttery fins trailing behind it like a wedding veil. Always in motion, it prowled the tank restlessly, sometimes chasing the smaller fish.

There was more going on in the aquarium than most people would

think. Such was Mark's view, based on what he saw. There appeared to be alliances, targeted victims, bullies and fearful swimmers. Little fish tended to stay away from bigger ones unless in a protective group. The sick fish was on its own. Mark saw how it hid when there was no sprinkled food, resting on the bottom of the tank or in between plant blades. It stayed motionless in these spots, as though trying to blend in with its surroundings and not be noticed.

As he watched and drew conclusions, Mark wondered how much of what he thought was going on in the tank was fact and how much was his own projected thoughts. And why was this struggling fish so interesting? Perhaps he identified with its determination to persevere no matter what.

Mark had always felt like an outsider, and as a child he had struggled to be accepted and blend in with others in the schoolyard. There was that word "struggle" again. Learning at an early age that to be different had ramifications, he had sometimes had to work harder, be friendlier or smarter or just plain more determined

in order to achieve what he wanted. Discouragement. Self-doubt. He had learned to ignore these and push on. Like the struggling fish. But fortunately for Mark, his efforts had usually paid off. Or at least unsuccessful ones didn't end in death, as he was certain would be the case with his poor little fish.

Then he realized there was more happening here than his own memories and experiences. The entire world seemed to be struggling. Terrible events continued to unfold as people fought to survive war, famine, injustice and lurking climate disaster. Survival was not a given. And what could the world do but struggle on, trying to overcome, hoping for change. Mark only hoped the world would be more successful than his fish. Because for the fish, he already knew how its story would end.

Down



sharon
lynch

Our road

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points of view

Cover boy

IF YOU NOTICE me walking down the street this week wearing a ball cap, dark sunglasses and looking presentable and clean-shaven, it's because I am trying to be unrecognizable for a while – which is not an easy thing to do when you are a cover boy.

That's right. Last week, instead of placing a photo of a deer, squirrel, owl, eagle, raven, duck, otter, vole, or other cute furry animal on the cover of the Echo's County Life issue, they decided to adorn the cover with a person who works for the same rate.

Honestly, no one was more surprised than me.

One day, I'm just a regular guy with spatulated features and a killer granddad bod. The next day, I am stuffed in every County Life box in the County. And, this time, not because of bullies.

For those few of you who do not already have this photo pinned over your workbench, or attached to the fridge with magnets, allow me to describe the image. It is a photo of me tying on a fishing lure while ice fishing on Pine Lake. To say I look dreamy, is probably an understatement.

Before I explain the photo however, let me dispel a few myths that are now very likely circulating around the community. First off, I have had no work done. Everything you see in that photo is real. No, those aren't hair extensions and yes, silver fox, is my natural hair colour. Also, the ear hair is real. And despite all appearances, I have not been putting in time at

the gym. That's just the way the good Lord made me.

I also want to thank you fine people for respecting my privacy. I know it must be extremely difficult to see me, say at the Post Office or in the produce section, and not stop me and request a selfie or an autograph. But, by golly, you people have risen to the challenge. It didn't happen once. Furthermore, most of you acted as if you had never even seen the photo. Kudos.

The truth is this photo was not supposed to be a pin-up.

Editor Vivian Collings, who took the photos, just asked if I could take her ice fishing so she could get some file photos for the newspaper. The idea, I believe, was also to catch a fish or two. And, possibly, create a tourism boom at Pine Lake.

Unfortunately, she was fishing with me, so the fish part never happened. Lacking that, she had me pose while drilling holes with a power auger, while ladling out slush, and while tying on lures.

Well, you know me, when the camera is pointed my way, I can't help but work it. Not to overstate things, but I guess the best way to describe what Vivian got is to call it a masterclass in modelling. Yes, there were also steamy photos, but the steam was because I overheated while trying to start the auger.

There are also a series of photos of me with pouty lips that she'll probably break out another day when newspaper sales need boosting. And let's not even talk about my sashaying. She probably sent those to GQ. It's rare to see good sashaying photos in *Geriatric Quarterly*.

Anyway, to summarize, Vivian wanted photos of a fish on the ice. Instead, she got a pin up of me tying on a lure.

That took two hours of her morning too. So, I guess you could say it was all for knot.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

The wedding photograph of Arthur Batchelor (ca. 1886-1932) and Mary Esther Walling (1879-1955), who were married in the Haliburton Baptist Church in 1911. Arthur was involved in various municipal affairs, serving as the clerk of the Municipality of Dysart during 1916-1931. Mary was deeply involved with the Haliburton Baptist Church and served as their organist for several years. They resided at what is presently 8 Higgins Court in the Village. /Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Museum

letters to the editor

It's getting embarrassing to live in Dysart

To the Editor,

For anyone who cares about clean lakes and the Haliburton environment, it's getting downright embarrassing to live in the Municipality of Dysart. In the County of Haliburton, the only holdout against the much-needed shoreline bylaw has been Dysart. Last year, the so-called "public meeting" in Dysart about the massive condo project planned for Grass Lake was a farce, with concerned citizens' presentations cut off, people kept on mute at a Zoom-only meeting to prevent their participation, and a decision by council that appeared to be decided long before taxpaying residents and cottagers could have their say. Recently, Harburn Holdings, proponents of the condo proposal, got special consideration from Dysart for reserved sewage capacity before the project was even approved at the Haliburton County Council level.

At the February 2023 Haliburton County Council meeting to consider the Harburn proposal, every single councillor from other municipalities asked serious and thoughtful questions about the complex condo proposal except Dysart Mayor Fearrey and Deputy Mayor McKecknie, who pur-

port to represent the municipality in which the project is situated yet only seemed interested in approving this project as soon as possible without adequate consideration of its many potential downsides. Much more serious treatment is warranted for this project - which is the largest ever proposed for the County - when these politicians are making an important decision that has potentially grave implications for the environment and the Kashagawigamog lake chain of which Grass Lake is a part.

Perhaps we are seeing the unfortunate result of politicians who are not actually elected but proclaimed by acclamation, without a platform for which they can be held responsible. Nevertheless, politicians need to be accountable and it is up to us, the voters and taxpayers, to ensure that is the case. Everyone concerned about the preservation of our lakes and environment need to make their views known to their respective political representatives in Dysart and other municipalities within Haliburton County on these vital issues.

Catherine Swift,
Friends of Grass Lake

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
vivian@haliburtonpress.com



Britta and Thomas Ritchie stop for a photo while skating at the Activities at the Arena SBES fundraiser.



Ruby Mansfield speeds down the ice.

Skating for SBES

Adam Rieger skates after his friends during Activities at the Arena on Sunday, March 19 at the AJ LaRue Arena in Haliburton, an event hosted by the Stuart Baker Elementary School council to raise funds for technology and arts programming in the school. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Haliburton County
Stations of the Cross Tour

A Journey to the Cross

Thursday, March 29th through Monday, April 10th
 Join us in celebrating the life-changing power of Jesus' life, death and resurrection through the third Haliburton County Stations of the Cross Tour! It is the hope of the local Church of Haliburton County that individuals and families could enjoy a tour of our beautiful region, while taking time to reflect and prepare our hearts for this season of Easter. During the weeks of Thursday, March 29th to Monday, April 10th, individuals and families can tour around our local, participating churches to view various outdoor installations of local art that represent the story of Jesus' Journey to the Cross. Enjoy the Tour which serves as a beautiful intersection of faith and art.

For a tour guide, map and more information visit:
www.mylakeside.ca/sochaliburton

Stations of the Cross Tour 2023:

- A) 1: Ingoldsby United Church, 1741 Ingoldsby Rd., Minden
- B) 2: Lochlin United Church, 1050 Lochlin Rd., Minden
- C) 3: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St., Haliburton
- D) 4 & 5: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. Haliburton
- E) 6: St. Anthony's of Padua Mission Church, 27 Victoria St. Haliburton
- F) 7, 8 & 9: Lakeside Church/Lighthouse Pentecostal Church, 9 Park St. Haliburton
- G) 10 & 11: Northland Faith Church, 13321 Hwy. 118, Haliburton
- H) 12: Eagle Lake Community Church, 2605 Eagle Lake Rd., Eagle Lake
- I) 13 & 14: West Gullford Baptist Church, 1063 Nila Rd., West Gullford



Ben Rieger had fun skating with his family at the SBES fundraiser.

Aging Together as Community receives funding

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

It's no secret that Haliburton County has a rapidly growing demographic of seniors. Jack Brezina wrote in his column *Jack's POV* two weeks ago that it has the highest percentage of those over 60 in all of Ontario. It currently stands at 32 per cent while the provincial average according to recent Stats Canada numbers is 19 per cent, and it's predicted that by 2046, the number will rise to 40 per cent.

It's a growing issue, and one that needs to be addressed. That's why Aging Together as Community (ATC) was formed in the area. The group aims to provide networking and brainstorming opportunities to everyone interested in learning more. There is a particular interest in aging in the home, and the overall status of housing in the area as the population continues to age.

So far, the group has met twice to discuss. The first meeting on Jan. 28 was a preliminary session to brainstorm visions for how the organization works within the community. The session was well-attended - both virtually and in-person - and garnered the need for a follow-up, which was held March 4 at the West Guelph Community Centre.

The meeting started with the exciting announcement that ATC had received a grant of \$22,500 from the New Horizons Seniors Grant. "This money will enable us to turn a new page, and start a new chapter," shared Bonnie Roe, an organizer with ATC.

The primary focus of the grant is for advertising and marketing the ATC cause in an overarching way. "It's really about broadening our audience and coming up with a website platform," said David Buwalda, another ATC organizer. "Every part of marketing we do will have a community based approach, and this grant is setting a foundation of what can be done." The grant will

be eligible for a full year, running March 2023 to March 2024.

On top of receiving the grant from New Horizons, the March 4 ATC meeting also formalized some tangible next steps for the working group, including the creation of a formalized lobby group, partnering with local media organizations, exploring alternative housing options and opportunities, and developing clear messaging for what the ATC group is all about.

Roe also noted that a major goal is to partner with other organizations who put seniors on the forefront of their priorities. "There's nothing worse than people operating in silos," she said. She believes that there are plenty of opportunities for collaboration and community development through these initiatives.

The next ATC will be April 15, 1:30 to 4 p.m.. Organizers are confirming the location, and all details will be on the Aging Together as Community Facebook page.

HHOA reinstates its Wild Game Dinner

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) is pleased to be reinstating its annual Wild Game Dinner and Auction on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at the Haliburton Legion. The dinner, a very popular community event and a valuable fund raising activity for HHOA, had been held for over 25 years. The Covid pandemic put the event on hold for the last three years.

"The Wild Game Dinner has always been a very well attended," said Dan Smith, HHOA president.

"We're very excited to be doing it again this year. The dinner gives people the opportunity to try a variety of wild game, while also participating in a silent auction and having a great time."

This year's menu includes, venison, bear, moose, boar, buffalo and rainbow trout. Domestic meat options are also available if you're not up for trying wild game. The bar opens at 5 p.m.

Dinner and the auction start at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$35.00 per person, or \$55.00 per couple. Tickets can be bought at Outdoors Plus in Haliburton, or by calling Linda at 705-457-2064, or the HHOA at 705-457-9664.

Since 1998, the HHOA has raised and stocked over 800,000 fish in local lakes. If you would like to help support the HHOA you can join or donate at HHOA.on.ca. You can also help by playing the HHOA 50/50 monthly raffle at bigcatch5050.ca. Fifty percent of all monthly proceeds go to one lucky winner.

The other fifty percent supports the fish hatchery, the stocking of area lakes, walleye spawning rehabilitation programs and other HHOA activities that benefit the region's outdoors community.

Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association

Danny Johnson, right, serves up a dish full of wild game at the annual Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association's Wild Game Dinner on March 12, 2019 at the Haliburton Legion. /FILE





U-LINKS
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Part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative

32nd ANNUAL
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Tanner Liang - Water Quality Specialist, Kawartha Conservation

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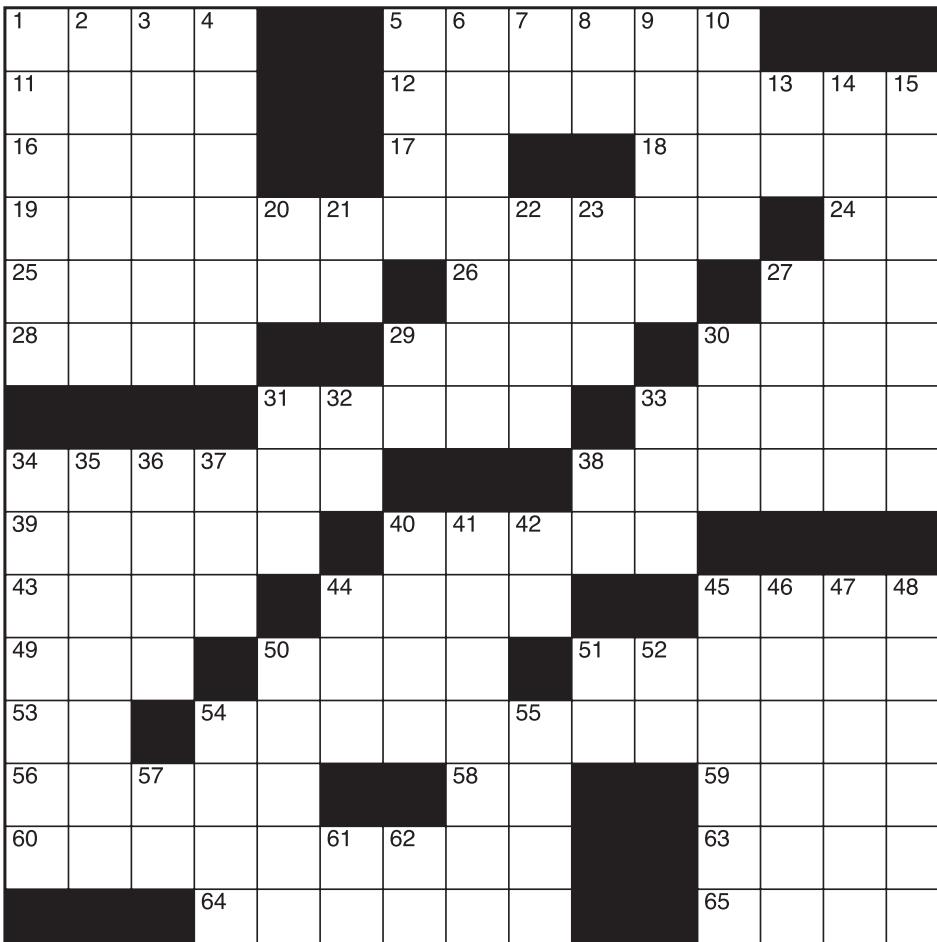
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- Influential American political family
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- Within
- Pleasure seekers
- Computer manufacturer
- Home to college sports; Flyers
- Fungal disease
- Sleepwalk
- Spielberg sci-fi film
- Seasonable
- Taxis
- Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- Thin, narrow piece of wood
- "Mystic River" actor Sean
- Ingenuous
- Musical composition
- Turkish surname
- High or hilly area
- Wilco frontman
- Pour it on pasta
- Electric car company
- Sea eagle
- Walk with difficulty
- Sign of healing
- Boy
- Protein-rich liquid
- Washington city
- Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)
- Thought over
- Scads
- News agency
- Standard
- Deadlock
- Pre-Columbian empire
- Removed
- French commune

CLUES DOWN

- Large, dangerous animals
- Straighten out
- Family tree
- Large stinging paper wasp
- European river fish

- Cut down in size
- Denotes past
- Larry and Curly's partner
- Samoyedic ethnic group
- Male parent
- Specific gravity
- Demeaned oneself to
- Rigidly
- Yankovic is a "weird" one
- Belonging to me
- Path
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Level
- Atomic #94
- Born of
- Midway between northeast and east
- Northeastern bank
- Defunct airline
- Having no purpose
- A low wall
- Swedish city
- Earn a perfect score
- Atomic #81
- Beginner
- Give off
- Incorrect letters
- Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)
- Idyllic
- Popular beer
- A way to fine
- Evildoer
- More withered
- Seventh note of a major scale
- Commercial
- Abnormal breathing
- Moved more quickly
- City of Angels
- Partner to Pa
- Equally

Answers on page 13



Haliburton's Owen Nicholls, second from left, and Team Stratton from London represented Ontario in men's curling at the Canada Winter Games in Summerside, PEI and placed third. /Photos submitted



Team Stratton shares a hug after winning their final game in PEI.

Nicholls and team win bronze at Canada Winter Games

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Local curler Owen Nicholls and team Stratton of London swept their way to victory while representing Ontario at the Canada Winter Games in Summerside, PEI at the beginning of March.

Along with a bronze medal, Nicholls brings home with him the experience of a lifetime.

"It's always an honor to represent your province against the best of the best in the other provinces. But to do it in PEI was something we really enjoyed because we got to experience a new province, and compete at the national level at an event. That is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Owen said.

After a nail-biting final game against Alberta, the team came out victorious even when the house was wide open for Alberta's skip to draw and win.

"It came down to the last rock," team Stratton's lead said. It was very unexpected, we had thought we lost. I couldn't stop shaking after that game. It was so shocking how it finished. We immediately celebrated together on the ice and just as quickly ran to the stands where our par-

ents were to give hugs and celebrate. It was definitely an emotional and dramatic finish."

Although placing on the podium at the Games was the Ontario team's main goal, they also focused on having fun together as a team and taking in the experience of the national games.

They stayed in the athlete's village at the University of PEI in Charlottetown, watched other sports like hockey, badminton, and boxing, and were able to make new friends and reconnect with old ones.

"After coming out of the games, this team is full of excitement and joy. We haven't stopped retelling our favorite stories. Being able to medal for our province is something we are very proud of," Owen said.

The experience was thrilling but also tiring for the U18/U21 team. Owen said he will carry the memories with him for years to come.

After heading back to Ontario to compete in the U21 provincial championships in Ottawa, Team Stratton brings their competitive 2022/2023 season to a close.

"We feel like we've accomplished our goals this season and feel very good about how we played out there," Owen said.

Huskies win first playoff series

Huskies #91 Alex Cunningham attempts to score on the net of the Toronto Patriots during the two teams' final game of the first playoff series at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden on Thursday, March 16. The Huskies won the game 4-2, winning the series. The next round of playoff games for the Huskies will be against the Wellington Dukes. The first home game is on Saturday, March 25 at 4 p.m. Tickets are for sale at Dollo's Foodland in Minden and Haliburton Foodland. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



Patrick Saini #75 celebrates a power play goal, making game 3-1. The goal was assisted by #91 Alex Cunningham and #77 Ty Collins.



The Huskies celebrate their fourth goal by #91 Alex Cunningham.



Need for speed

A car speeds down the track during the Ice Races hosted by the Minden Kin Club at the Minden Fairgrounds on Sunday, March 12. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



#80 bumps into #188 during a race.



Car #46 smokes after crash during the Minden Ice Racing hosted by the Minden Kin Club at the Minden Fairgrounds on Sunday, March 12.

Registration opens for Canada 55+ Games

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

The Ontario Senior Games Association is warming up for the 55+ Games this year, and registration is now open to anyone 55 and over hoping to join in the fun.

Haliburton/Muskoka's District 11 is excited to be back with both indoor and outdoor events this spring after two years of modified games due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jane Symons is a participant in walking and received bronze in the Canada 55+ 2022 Summer Games in Kamloops, BC. She was one of the six competitors from District 11 to move on to the national level last year.

She said registering for the games has brought many benefits to her life.

"I couldn't wait to be 55 to join," Symons said. "I feel that the games are a way of integrating seniors for mental, social, and physical activities."

Although some events are not physical,

like bridge and euchre, they are ways to get social.

"It's a good way of meeting new people and trying new things. It'll be nice to get some new people out this year. We're always looking for more," Symons said.

The activities currently offered in Haliburton County are bid euchre, bridge, cribbage, golf, pickleball, shuffleboard, tennis, and walking.

"The more interest we get, the more events we may be able to host in the future," Symons said.

This year, District 11 has two new members on their executive board.

"This year's been exciting," said district coordinator Mary Johnson. "Our new members are doing such a great job."

Participants can be 54 as long as they turn 55 before the end of 2023.

To download District 11's registration form, visit district11.osga55plus.ca/. Copies are also available at the Minden and Haliburton Legions, Minden and Haliburton library branches, and the Minden Community Centre. All forms must be returned by mail, and the registration deadline is April 20. The fee to register is \$25.



Form 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on April 27, 2023, at the Highlands East Municipal Office, 2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Highlands East Municipal Office, 2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 46 01 601 000 52100 0000; 1930 Glamor Lake Rd., Gooderham; PIN 39233-0140 (LT); PT LT 2 CON 11 MONMOUTH AS IN H136595; HIGHLANDS EAST; File 19-02

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$145,000.00

Minimum tender amount: \$15,145.32

2. Roll No. 46 01 902 000 01902 0000; Irondale Rd.; PIN 39225-0148 (LT); LT 5 CON 6 GLAMORGAN BTN BURNED RIVER & RDAL BTN CON 5 AND CON 6; HIGHLANDS EAST; File 19-06

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$1,600.00

Minimum tender amount: \$3,168.99

3. Roll No. 46 01 902 000 55900 0000; Highlands East; PIN 39230-0218 (LT); PT LT 28 CON 9 GLAMORGAN AS IN H40836; HIGHLANDS EAST; File 19-08

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$26,000.00

Minimum tender amount: \$6,461.46

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, availability of road access, or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit: www.OntarioTaxSales.ca

or if no internet access available, contact:

Shelley Fice-Trimble
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The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East
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www.highlandseast.ca



Pickleball players from the OSGA 55+ Senior Games District 11 Stephen Phinney from left and Phil Harknet competed in pickleball at provincials in Peterborough in 2022. /Submitted



Frank Ferris, from left, Sharon Ferris, Larry Baadsvik, Joan Heath, Michael Thorne, Jane Symons, Jennifer Coates and Maureen Jexesi competed in the 2022 provincial senior games held in Peterborough. /Submitted

Getting by with a little help from friends

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper

754-2278

Have you ever tried to get along with your friends and family? Plumbing problems raised their ugly heads a few weeks ago. When it became apparent that I couldn't fix the problem myself, the family was notified. In the meantime, neighbours stepped in. One supplied laundry needs. Another supplied tools and a dinner. One son came to do some digging. Another neighbour served a delicious meal. The next day another son came to do more digging and supplied expertise

and bought equipment and got the septic tank serviced. Several friends called to make sure that answers to it all were being provided. All in all there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel. My gratitude knows no bounds.

In the meantime a prayer shawl was completed. What would I do without knitting? A favourite Chopin in expertly is practised and in hope of being memorized, or as Earl used to say about pipe tunes, until I have it. If he recognized a tune or knew the words, he didn't really have the tune till it was all from memory. So the time passes with sorting of papers, books, clothing, and phone calls. Phone calls to said friends and family. Next thing you know, spring will be here and inside and out will look brighter. Thanks for bearing with me, one and all.

Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary add colour to international fundraiser

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

It's time for the third-annual fundraiser between Interact, Rotaract, and the Haliburton and Minden Rotary clubs to brighten the Highlands with a Canadian-themed colouring book, and they need your drawings to make it come to life.

Spearheaded by Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Interact students, the three service clubs under the umbrella of Rotary International have been supporting a school in India called the Mahatma Gandhi Siksha Sadan School by sending proceeds from their annual fundraiser to help provide much-needed supplies.

"When Interact was coming up with a world-wide initiative to tackle for this year, we decided that we wanted

to support the school in India again as we have developed a friendship with them, they continue to be in great need, and we can help," said Interact member Annabelle Borgdorff.

The HHSS student said the club's dream is to one day meet the students at the school in India, but in the meantime, they hope to send monetary support across the water by putting together a colouring book to be sold.

Along with students' drawings, they would like community members to submit drawings of Canadian-themed artwork to be part of the book.

"We just thought [the colouring books] would be a creative, new way to fundraise and to showcase local talent," Annabelle said.

The clubs saw success with selling a cookbook of favourite recipes from members of all three clubs the first year and two different puzzles the second year; one featuring local scenery and one of a mural in the high

school.

"We are holding a contest where people can submit their Canadian-themed artwork to be put in the adult colouring book that will be produced and sold to fundraise for the school in India. We are hoping to have involvement from students at HHSS, adults in the community, as well as students in Grade 8 from our family of schools," Annabelle said.

To enter the contest, submissions must be black line drawings on 8.5" by 11" white paper, and they must be Canadian-themed. Digital drawing are accepted.

All submissions can be dropped off in-person at the HHSS main office or sent to christine.carr@tldsb.on.ca.

Name and contact information must be included, and the date for final submissions is April 6.

"We plan to have the colouring books fully put together by early May," Annabelle said.



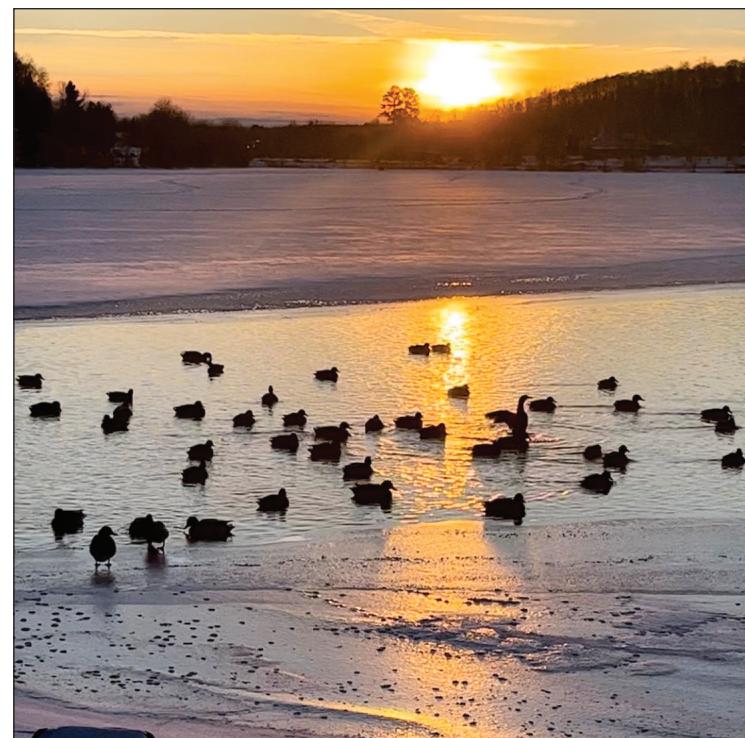
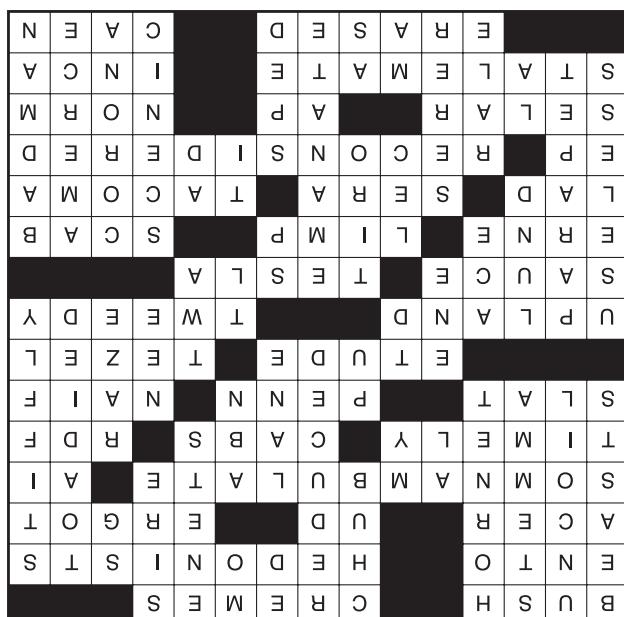
Rotaract Haliburton Highlands celebrates three years of community service

Just three weeks after Rotaract Haliburton Highlands held their very first meeting in 2020, the world shut down. Everything moved online as events were cancelled, businesses closed their doors, and everyone was isolated to their own homes. This didn't stop the local group of determined young adults from pushing through adversity. Since that first night together in March of 2020, Rotaract Haliburton Highlands has met biweekly either online or in person. They've put together dozens of "Helping Hamper" baskets full of essential items and delivered them across the county, they've partnered with eight other non-profit organizations on various projects, completed six roadside cleanups on County Road 21, and hosted fundraisers to carry out their community work. The group celebrated their third birthday at Abbey Gardens on Saturday, March 18 with games, trivia, and cupcakes. To learn more about Rotaract Haliburton Highlands, or to express interest in joining, contact haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com. /Photos submitted by Brad Brown



Natalia Brown and Christine Carr laugh while playing a card game.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Ice Out Contest

It's once again time for the Haliburton Echo's annual Ice Out Contest! Guess the correct date and time for the last of the ice to be melted from Head Lake in Haliburton for the chance to win a free subscription to the Echo. Send in your guesses to vivian@haliburtonpress.com or phone 705-457-1037, ext. 39 by Friday, March 31.

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Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept)
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To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19.

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640 IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of **Mabel Doreen Hewitt**

May 13, 1924 – March 15, 2023

Passed peacefully in her sleep with family by her side on March 15, 2023 at the age of 98. Preceded in death by cherished husband and partner, Basil. Dear mother and counsellor to Tanya Yearwood (Paul), Colleen Hewitt (Robert Bonspiel deceased in 2022), Kim (Andrea) and Kirk (Nancy). Also preceded in death by husband and lifetime friend Keith Brannigan.

Born May 13, 1924 in Maple Lake, Mabel was a pioneer for independent women her entire life. She started her career as a young teenager working with her mother, Ruth Sawyer, at the telephone switchboard in Maple Lake. With the coming of WWII, she jumped at the opportunity to serve her country and joined the Woman's Division of the RCAF, training in Yorktown Saskatchewan. Her diligent work ethic soon resulted in a transfer to Command Headquarters in Ottawa where she worked until the end of the war in 1945.

Shortly after her return home, she fell in love with Basil. They were married in Maple Lake in June 1947 and started their farm on their homestead in Minden. Mabel also worked at the telephone switchboard in Minden and took in boarders at the house. She continued to progress on her educational courses and realized her career dream of teaching. She would go on to teach secondary school in Lively, Fenelon Falls, and Haliburton, preparing young people with necessary business skills. Mabel and Basil also shared a devotion to the Minden Fair. Mabel's chocolate cake, pies and garden-grown vegetables were annual red ribbon winners and Basil was a regular participant and judge in the livestock competitions. Their Sundays were centered around family and St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden.

With her endeared partner Basil's passing in 1978, Mabel ventured into real estate to supplement her income. She eventually purchased the Fireside restaurant that is now The Mabel Brannigan Royal Canadian Legion Branch 636, a very rare honour to a woman veteran. Mabel dedicated a great deal of her later life to Legion activities, becoming President of the local chapter and a reliable poppy provider for November 11 of each year. This led her to a dear friend in Keith Brannigan whom she married in December 1981. They lived in Haliburton and then Carnarvon and cared for her parents, Ruth and Elmer, at home. With Keith's passing in 2003, Mabel moved to the former Cupboard Store at Horseshoe Lake, later taking residence back in Minden, where she lived her final years. She continued her education into her eighties, taking university courses and traveling to England and Russia with her sister Audrey. She had ardent penmanship and literary skills that led to 17 editions of her war memories being published in The Highlander in 2020 (still in the archives). She was often used as a historical source for locals researching family trees. Mabel's legacy will always be defined by her much loved 10 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

The family is forever grateful to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHSS) caretakers that came to the house to care for Mabel. They include: HHSS Coordinators, personal support workers and palliative care nurses. Also, our heartfelt thank you to Dr Tilbrook, the St Elizabeth Hospital palliative care nurses, the wonderful support from the Veterans Administration and granddaughter Robin who became her devoted companion right up to the time of her passing.

A Celebration of Mabel's Life will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 636, 12847 Highway 35, Minden on a date and time to be announced later.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to The Royal Canadian Legion, Minden No. 636 Branch Poppy Fund and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0

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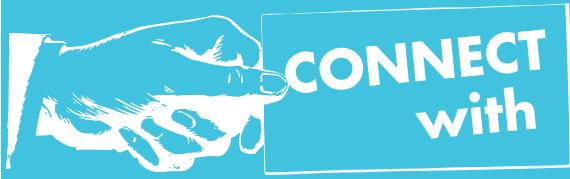
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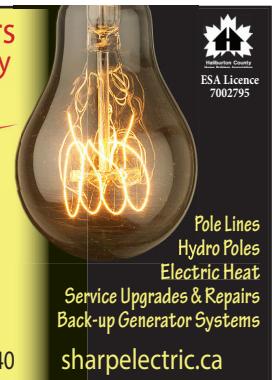
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■ **BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP**

\$25,000 matching funds for the arts

ANGELICA BLENICH*Staff reporter*

There was celebration in the air at the Rails End Gallery on April 8 as members of the community attended the official launch of artsVest, a \$25,000 matching grant initiative for the arts and heritage organizations in the county.

Dysart et al is one of 15 Ontario communities to be awarded the matching grant program over the next four years. The program is funded through Business for the Arts (BftA), as well as the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

The initiative, created and administered by BftA, is designed to spark new relationships between local cultural organizations and businesses while engaging municipal leaders in helping further municipal cultural plans.

Funds are provided to encourage local businesses to invest in the arts. For example, if a business invests \$10,000, this grant will match it up to a cap of \$25,000 for Dysart. BftA is a Canadian associa-

See Arts and culture page 9

She's no rook(ie)

Students, such as Cassie, were all smiles at the tournament as they battled it out over the chessboards at the board playoffs last week. Full story on page 8. Photo by Angelica Blenich.

■ **GRANTS**

Wilberforce fair gets \$35,000 grant

ANGELICA BLENICH*Staff reporter*

The annual Wilberforce Agricultural Fair will look a lot different this year thanks to a \$35,000 government grant that was awarded to the agricultural society in March.

The grant was awarded through Cel-

ebrate Ontario, an initiative that aims to support festivals and events throughout the province.

The Wilberforce Agricultural Society (WAS) applied for the funds back in November of 2009. The application outlined that if awarded the money, the society would put it towards purchasing new bleachers and lighting for the fairgrounds.

At the society's April 5 meeting, members of the group went over some of the planning details for this year's fair, scheduled to take place on Aug. 6 and 7, as well as how the grant money was going to be spent.

One new bleacher has already been purchased for the fair while more are be-

See New Wilberforce page 14

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\$699,900



3 X BED **31.03 ACRES** **1642 SQ.FT**
2 X BATH **MLS# 40361629**

WENONA LAKE
\$325,000



NEW LISTING

2 X BED **WATERFRONT ACCESS** **800 SQ.FT**
1 X BATH **MLS# 40386229**

BURNT RIVER



COMING SOON!

SUNNYSIDE STREET
\$225,000



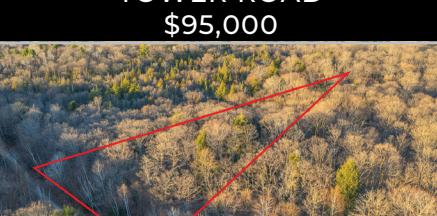
GREAT LOCATION **0.408 ACRES**
MUNICIPAL YEAR-ROUND RD. **MLS# 40343482**

LAKEVIEW STREET
\$159,900



PRIME LOCATION **UNDERGROUND HYDRO**
MUNICIPAL YEAR-ROUND RD. **MLS# 40364799**

TOWER ROAD
\$95,000



PRIVATE **2.19 ACRES**
OFF-GRID **MLS# 40343517**

SOUTH LAKE
\$795,000



3 X BED **1.06 ACRES** **999 SQ.FT**
1 X BATH **75 FT. FRONTAGE** **MLS# 40379906**

LAKE LORRAINE
\$725,000



SOLD

2 COTTAGES + BUNKIE **4 X BED** **SAUNA**
83 FT. FRONTAGE **2 X BATH** **MLS# 40378260**

SKYLINE PARK ROAD
\$299,000



SOLD

3 X BED **.675 ACRES** **850 SQ.FT**
2 X BATH **GREAT LOCATION** **MLS# 40357253**

NORTH DRIVE
\$209,000



PRIVATE **5.56 ACRES**
GREAT LOCATION **MLS# 40373129**

OSPREY RD
\$190,000



2 DEEDED LOTS **7.86 ACRES**
GREAT LOCATION **MLS# 40379171**



SOLD

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner

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RE/MAX

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BAUMGARTNER REALTY

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